

**National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Council (NEMSAC)**  
**March 2–3, 2022**  
**Executive Summary**

**Approval of the November 3-4, 2021, NEMSAC Meeting Summary**

A motion carried to approve the summary of the previous NEMSAC meeting.

**Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) Update**

Jonathan Greene, Chair of FICEMS, offered several updates from FICEMS agencies, including the following:

- The Navy, Air Force, and Army are revising clinical and EMS protocols.
- The Indian Health Service will expand the Community Aide Program.
- Greg Williams is the new EMS program manager at the U.S. Fire Administration, which is conducting an EMS needs assessment to identify gaps in products and services.
- The Counter Narcotics and Terrorism Operational Medical Support program has released its calendar of courses for EMS providers.

**EMS and 911 COVID-19 Response White Paper**

Mark Sigrist, Energetics, reported that this FICEMS white paper, to be published in July 2022, will examine the ongoing EMS and 911 response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as actions to better prepare the EMS and 911 community for future national health emergencies.

**National Suicide Hotline: 988 Update**

Kate Elkins of the Office of EMS reported that by July 16, 2022, wired and wireless carriers must make sure that when a caller dials or texts 988, the new number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the call is delivered to a local crisis center. The 911 and 988 communities will need to jointly ensure that every caller receives the right care at the right time.

**The Need for EMS and Obstetric Collaboration**

Sharon Phelan, MD, University of New Mexico, reported that maternal morbidity and mortality rates in the United States are rising, and most women who die of a pregnancy-related cause use EMS services at least once during pregnancy or after delivery. Dr. Phelan identified potential collaboration opportunities for EMS and obstetrical care providers to address this issue.

**Rural, Tribal, and Frontier EMS Challenges**

Jules Scadden, a paramedic at a rural ambulance service in Iowa, listed challenges faced by rural EMS agencies, including wage disparities that make recruitment and retention difficult. Chelsea White, MD, University of New Mexico, reported that the Indian Health Service (IHS) provides EMS services for some tribes, but other tribes rely on agencies from neighboring municipalities or private EMS agencies for EMS coverage within their borders. Gary Wingrove, President of the Paramedic Foundation, described a study funded by the federal Office of Rural Health Policy that is identifying areas of the United States that lack ambulance coverage.

## **Improving Stroke Triage and Transport Protocols for EMS**

Donald F. Frei, MD, Radiology Imaging Associates and Swedish Medical Center, proposed that states establish protocols for EMS agencies to triage patients with severe stroke and transport them directly to a hospital that offers thrombectomy.

### **Public Comment**

NEMSAC received three public comments with the following requests:

- Include use of supraglottic airway devices for unresponsive patients with no gag reflexes as a required skill for entry-level emergency medical technicians.
- Develop a formal relationship between medical reserve corps, the states, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.
- Break down National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) data by federal responder.

## **2022 Strategic Planning Discussion**

A suggestion was for NEMSAC to develop an advisory on the updated Field Triage Guidelines.

## **Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy**

Nanda Srinivasan, MS, and Gam Wijetunge, MS, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, described the Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy, which includes development of a plan to educate EMS personnel in on-scene safety and traffic incident management and expansion of NEMSIS.

### **NEMSAC Advisories**

See table below for results of NEMSAC votes on advisories and topics of subcommittees.

<b>Subcommittee</b>	<b>Advisory</b>	<b>Status</b>
Adaptability and Innovation	Strengthening EMS and Hospital Relationships to Improve Efficiencies and Positively Impact Patient Outcomes	Draft status
Equitable Patient Care	Reducing Social Inequities in EMS Through a National Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Registry	Interim status
	Equitable Access to EMS Based on Population Density	Draft status
Integration and Technology	Cybersecurity: What to Do When Technology Fails and How to Mediate in a Proactive Way	Draft status
Preparedness and Education	Establishing Education Standards for EMS Telecommunicators	Draft status
Professional Safety	Strategy to Mitigate Impacts to the Well-being of EMS Practitioners During Public Health Emergencies	Draft status
Sustainability and Efficiency	EMS System Performance-Based Funding and Reimbursement Model (fourth revision of existing advisory)	Draft status
	EMS Bill of Rights	Draft status
Ad Hoc Ambulance Motor Vehicle Crash	Ambulance Crash Data and Analysis	Draft status